

FLP-D-2

4 August 1953

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

Proposed Assumption by CIA of the Functions of the Foreign Publications Branch, Department of State

1. In March 1953 the Special Assistant, Intelligence, Department of State and the Deputy Director, Intelligence, CIA, designated representatives to examine the problem of augmenting the acquisition of foreign language publications for intelligence purposes. The recommendation of those representatives, embodied in an 8 May staff study (attached as Tab A), was that CIA assume the functions of the Foreign Publications Branch of the Department of State. That recommendation has been accepted by State and CIA and will shortly be implemented by the latter.

2. This arrangement is considered to be of interest to all IAC Agencies and their comments at the Advisory Committee meeting on Monday, 10 August, would be appreciated.

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Tab A to FLP-D-2

8 May 1953

I. PROBLEM

To augment qualitatively and quantitatively acquisition of foreign published and documentary material for intelligence purposes.

II. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

(a) Present publications procurement efforts in State and CIA are not adequate to the research needs of the IAC.

(b) The Foreign Service of the United States provides adequate machinery upon which a program for solving present deficiencies can be based, given adequate fiscal and personnel support both in Washington and overseas. The Foreign Service has been so utilized in the similar effort of geographic intelligence (OLI/M), as well as in the comparable services performed by the Departments of Labor, Commerce, Agriculture, and so forth. (The problem of providing funds or personnel support to the Foreign Service overseas is not considered in this paper).

(c) The recently approved NSCID-16 provides that "the Director of Central Intelligence shall insure the coordination of the procurement of foreign language publications for intelligence purposes".

(d) Accomplishment of the objectives of NSCID-16 relating to timely identification, cataloging, utilization and evaluation of acquired materials is dependent to an important degree upon effective operation of the procurement system.

III. CONCLUSIONS

In the study of the problem only three major solutions presented themselves:

(a) Creating within CIA a new mechanism which would augment in Washington and in the field the existing facilities of State and the Foreign Service.

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(c) Transferring of State activities in Washington (FPB) to CIA where, under CIA auspices, they can be appropriately augmented to provide adequate guidance to the Foreign Service and adequate processing in Washington.

Solution (a) creates a new competing and duplicative organization and has been considered so violative of the spirit of NSCID-16 and so uneconomical that it has been discarded.

Careful consideration has been given to solution (b). The principal advantage of this solution is that the maintenance of this function in the Department of State may contribute in some degree to its more ready acceptance by the Foreign Service overseas. Certain other minor advantages may accrue from this solution, such as greater ease and flexibility in dealing with non-IAC agencies and, as necessary, with non-governmental libraries and organizations. However, this solution would require augmenting State's Washington activities

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Moreover, the separation of authoritative direction and financial responsibility would inevitably create inefficiencies regardless of the whole-hearted cooperation of the parties concerned. A further disadvantage arises from the difficulty (in view of the Department's budgetary history) of insuring continuation on a stable basis of the Department's share of the augmented activities. It is impracticable to propose continuing execution of this program by periodic infusions of CIA funds in amounts varying in proportion to the current status of the Department's budget.

Solution (c) appears to provide the most acceptable solution. It has the following advantages:

1. Consolidated record-keeping will afford a better utilization of personnel.

2. Integration of the publications procurement program within CIA will provide the Director with the means, as well as the authority, to carry out the provisions and achieve the objectives of NSCID-16. Under this solution there will be combined for the first time under one administrative direction, functions relating to the collection, dissemination, indexing and recording and exploitation of foreign publications for intelligence purposes. The wartime experiences of OSS in this field have clearly indicated that such consolidation is more efficient and economical than decentralization of the various parts of the whole operation.

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The principal disadvantages of solution (c) are (1) the procedural difficulty of providing guidance and direction to the Foreign Service from another agency; (2) meeting the special needs of the Department and of non-IAC agencies for foreign published materials.

We believe, however, that the geographic intelligence program provides an example of the method whereby the first disadvantage may be overcome and we also believe that the second disadvantage can also be overcome by cooperation between the Department and CIA.

IV. ACTION RECOMMENDED

It is recommended that the Deputy Director/Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, and the Special Assistant, Intelligence, Department of State, approve the implementation of the proposal that CIA undertake to augment the acquisition of foreign published and documentary material for intelligence purposes by assuming the functions of the Foreign Publications Branch of the Acquisition and Distribution Division. In assuming this responsibility from the Acquisition and Distribution Division, the following conditions shall prevail:

(a) That State's overall responsibility for the functions of the Foreign Service be recognized by the creation of a special assistant for publications to the Director, OLI, similar to the

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(b) CIA will assure that the Department of State will continue to receive no less satisfactory service with regard to foreign publications that it has received to date from its Foreign Publications Branch.

(c) The facilities of the centralized procurement activities housed in CIA will continue to be available to non-IAC agencies as a supplement to their normal acquisition through commercial and exchange channels.

(d) In accordance with NSCID-16, CIA will coordinate its program with those of the service attaches.